

CLAIMS:

1. A method of recording at a recording speed (V) an information signal on an information layer of a recording medium by irradiating the information layer by means of a radiation beam, said information layer having a phase reversibly changeable between a first state and a second state, which method comprises

5 - a write step for applying the radiation beam, in response to the information signal, to a first area of the information layer to cause the first area of the information layer to assume the first state, thereby forming a mark, and

- an erase step for applying a pulsed radiation beam to a second area of the information layer, before and after the mark, to cause the second area of the information layer 10 to assume a state substantially identical to the second state, the pulsed radiation beam comprising erase pulses having a erase power level (P_e) and a bias power level (P_b) between the erase pulses,

characterized in that the bias power level (P_b) depends on the recording speed.

15 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first state is an amorphous state and the second state is a crystalline state.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the bias power level (P_b) increases in a range between zero and the erase power level (P_e) as the recording speed (V) 20 increases.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the bias power level (P_b) increases in a range between zero and the erase power level (P_e) as the recording speed (V) increases when the recording speed is below a chosen recording speed, and that the bias 25 power level (P_b) is substantially identical to the erase power level (P_e) when the recording speed exceeds the chosen recording speed.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the erase pulses have a duty cycle of T_e/T_b , where T_e is the duration of an erase pulse and T_b is the time between two successive erase pulses, characterized in that the duty cycle depends on the recording speed.

5 6. A method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the duty cycle increases in a range between nearly zero and unity as the recording speed (V) increases.

7. A recording device for recording at a recording speed (V) an information signal on an information layer of a recording medium by irradiating the information layer by 10 means of a radiation beam, said information layer having a phase reversibly changeable between a first state and a second state, the device comprising a radiation source for providing the radiation beam and control means for controlling the power of the radiation beam such that

15 - in response to the information signal, the radiation beam is applied to a first area of the information layer to cause the first area of the information layer to assume the first state, thereby forming a mark, and such that

20 - a pulsed radiation beam comprising erase pulses having an erase power level (P_e) and a bias power level (P_b) between the erase pulses is applied to a second area of the information layer, before and after the mark, to cause the second area of the information layer to assume a state substantially identical to the second state, characterized in that the control means set the bias power level (P_b) in dependence on the recording speed (V).

25 8. A recording device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the control means set the bias power level (P_b) so that it increases in a range between zero and the erase power level (P_e) as the recording speed (V) increases.

30 9. A recording device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the control means set the bias power level (P_b) so that it increases in a range between zero and the erase power level (P_e) as the recording speed (V) increases when the recording speed is below a chosen recording speed and that the control means set the bias power level (P_b) so as to be substantially identical to the erase power level (P_e) when the recording speed is above the chosen recording speed.

10. A recording device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the erase pulses have a duty cycle of T_e/T_b , where T_e is the duration of an erase pulse and T_b is the time between two successive erase pulses, characterized in that the control means set the duty cycle in dependence on the recording speed.

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11. A recording device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that control means set the duty cycle so as to increase in a range between nearly zero and unity as the recording speed (V) increases.